

For Release: Thursday, October 15, 2015

15-2023-SAN

WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

Technical information: (415) 625-2270 • BLSinfoSF@bls.gov • [www.bls.gov/regions/west](http://www.bls.gov/regions/west)

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

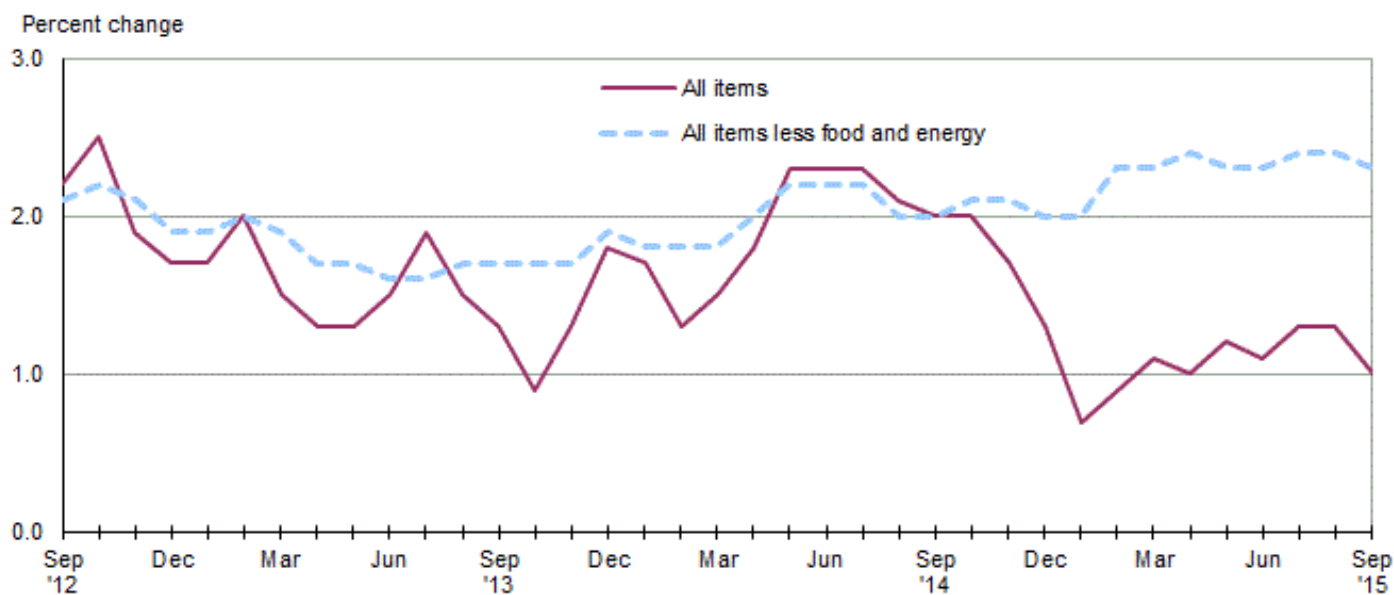
## Consumer Price Index, West Region — September 2015

Area prices were down 0.2 percent over the past month, up 1.0 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged down 0.2 percent in September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) The September decrease was influenced by lower prices for gasoline and, to a lesser extent, new and used motor vehicles. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 1.0 percent. (See [chart 1](#).) Energy prices dropped 13.9 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.3 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, September 2012–September 2015**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

Food prices rose 0.7 percent for the month of September. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food away from home rose 1.3 percent, and prices for food at home crept up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 2.0 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 3.2 percent, and prices for food at home advanced 1.1 percent since a year ago.

## Energy

The energy index decreased 6.4 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-10.6 percent). Prices for natural gas service declined 1.6 percent, and prices for electricity declined 0.9 percent since the previous month.

Energy prices dropped 13.9 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-22.1 percent). Prices for natural gas service declined 5.5 percent, but prices paid for electricity rose 0.3 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy crept up 0.2 percent in September. Higher prices for apparel (2.3 percent) and education and communication (0.4 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for new and used vehicles (-1.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.3 percent. Expenditure categories leading the increase included shelter (4.3 percent) and medical care (2.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in apparel (-2.1 percent) and education and communication (-0.5 percent).

**Table A. West Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)**

Month	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.3	1.9	0.5	1.4	0.4	2.6	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7
February.....	0.1	1.4	0.6	1.9	0.4	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9
March.....	0.3	1.6	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.4	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1
April.....	0.2	1.5	0.6	3.0	0.2	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0
May.....	0.1	1.3	0.3	3.2	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2
June.....	-0.1	0.6	-0.2	3.1	-0.2	2.0	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1
July.....	0.1	0.8	-0.1	2.9	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3
August.....	0.1	0.7	0.2	3.0	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3
September.....	-0.1	0.5	0.4	3.5	0.5	2.2	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0
October.....	0.1	0.6	0.0	3.4	0.4	2.5	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0		
November.....	0.0	0.9	-0.2	3.2	-0.7	1.9	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7		
December.....	0.2	1.3	-0.3	2.7	-0.5	1.7	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3		

---

**The October 2015 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on November 17, 2015.**

### **Technical Note**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17\\_a.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Sep. 2014	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All Items.....	245.040	244.737	244.257	1.0	-0.3	-0.2
All items (December 1977=100).....	396.093	395.603	394.827			
Food and beverages.....	249.041	249.795	251.284	1.8	0.9	0.6
Food.....	249.229	250.045	251.679	2.0	1.0	0.7
Food at home.....	249.077	249.825	250.337	1.1	0.5	0.2
Food away from home.....	248.217	249.125	252.334	3.2	1.7	1.3
Alcoholic beverages.....	243.237	243.187	242.815	0.1	-0.2	-0.2
Housing.....	255.592	256.383	256.858	3.6	0.5	0.2
Shelter.....	288.418	289.532	290.375	4.3	0.7	0.3
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	301.282	302.665	304.138	4.4	0.9	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	302.165	303.446	304.697	4.4	0.8	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	302.150	303.428	304.680	4.3	0.8	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	282.591	284.512	282.573	0.8	0.0	-0.7
Household energy.....	248.442	249.042	246.425	-1.6	-0.8	-1.1
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	251.242	251.895	249.137	-1.1	-0.8	-1.1
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	276.848	276.609	273.994	0.3	-1.0	-0.9
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	206.061	208.891	205.615	-5.5	-0.2	-1.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	129.673	128.751	129.091	1.2	-0.4	0.3
Apparel.....	116.120	117.732	120.484	-2.1	3.8	2.3
Transportation.....	213.790	209.616	202.729	-6.2	-5.2	-3.3
Private transportation.....	207.669	204.559	197.316	-6.4	-5.0	-3.5
New and used motor vehicles <sup>(3)</sup> .....	102.678	102.268	101.089	0.4	-1.5	-1.2
New vehicles.....	147.620	146.327	145.397	0.9	-1.5	-0.6
New cars and trucks <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	102.586	101.674	101.011	0.9	-1.5	-0.7
New cars <sup>(4)</sup> .....	146.810	145.475	144.298	-0.3	-1.7	-0.8
Used cars and trucks.....	146.251	146.008	143.520	-2.3	-1.9	-1.7
Motor fuel.....	274.229	261.905	234.267	-22.3	-14.6	-10.6
Gasoline (all types).....	273.797	261.539	233.713	-22.1	-14.6	-10.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(4)</sup> .....	271.793	259.528	231.321	-22.7	-14.9	-10.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(4) (5)</sup> .....	259.585	249.585	223.986	-20.5	-13.7	-10.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(4)</sup> .....	264.212	252.389	228.034	-19.8	-13.7	-9.6
Medical Care.....	455.089	451.436	451.886	2.2	-0.7	0.1
Medical care commodities.....	345.506	344.317	345.296	3.6	-0.1	0.3
Medical care services.....	489.865	485.294	485.524	1.9	-0.9	0.0
Professional services.....	341.435	338.330	338.484	1.9	-0.9	0.0
Recreation <sup>(3)</sup> .....	111.030	110.834	110.837	0.6	-0.2	0.0
Education and communication <sup>(3)</sup> .....	137.604	138.013	138.557	-0.5	0.7	0.4
Other goods and services.....	402.499	401.912	403.489	0.9	0.2	0.4
<b>Commodity and Service Group</b>						
All Items.....	245.040	244.737	244.257	1.0	-0.3	-0.2
Commodities.....	183.246	182.356	180.903	-2.4	-1.3	-0.8
Commodities less food & beverages.....	149.773	148.236	145.620	-5.2	-2.8	-1.8
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	192.300	189.788	184.817	-8.0	-3.9	-2.6
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel.....	245.683	240.400	230.238	-9.9	-6.3	-4.2
Durables.....	110.518	109.871	109.394	-0.5	-1.0	-0.4
Services.....	301.866	302.133	302.596	3.0	0.2	0.2
Rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	306.829	308.020	308.923	4.3	0.7	0.3
Transportation services.....	285.501	281.861	281.341	2.1	-1.5	-0.2

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Sep. 2014	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015
Other services.....	336.067	336.534	337.624	0.9	0.5	0.3
<b>Special aggregate indexes:</b>						
All items less medical care.....	235.399	235.232	234.717	0.9	-0.3	-0.2
All items less food.....	244.577	244.096	243.279	0.8	-0.5	-0.3
All items less shelter.....	228.759	227.850	226.802	-0.7	-0.9	-0.5
Commodities less food.....	153.416	151.914	149.348	-5.0	-2.7	-1.7
Nondurables.....	221.198	220.190	218.196	-2.9	-1.4	-0.9
Nondurables less food.....	196.334	193.957	189.237	-7.4	-3.6	-2.4
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	245.071	240.299	231.093	-9.0	-5.7	-3.8
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	329.763	328.848	328.787	1.5	-0.3	0.0
Services less medical care services.....	288.789	289.332	289.806	3.1	0.4	0.2
Energy.....	265.318	258.734	242.168	-13.9	-8.7	-6.4
All items less energy.....	245.488	245.659	246.393	2.3	0.4	0.3
All items less food and energy.....	245.605	245.663	246.242	2.3	0.3	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities.....	140.120	139.901	140.306	-0.5	0.1	0.3
Energy commodities.....	277.746	265.451	237.970	-22.2	-14.3	-10.4
Services less energy services.....	305.850	306.093	306.763	3.2	0.3	0.2

<sup>(1)</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

<sup>(2)</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>(3)</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

<sup>(4)</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>(5)</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.